

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for trading a commodity, comprising:

receiving, in encoded form via a computer network, a plurality of bids and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common commodity;

displaying said bids and offers on a computer monitor;

generating a trading offer including a trading rate or price per unit of said commodity, and a number of units of said commodity;

automatically calculating a total stop amount for said trading offer, said total stop amount being a monetary amount required to cover a stop execution on said trading offer, said total stop amount including a primary quantity equal to a stop value multiplied by the number of units of said commodity included in said trading offer;

automatically comparing said total stop amount with an available amount in a client or trader account; and

transmitting a digital signal encoding said trading offer over said computer network for distribution to multiple traders.

2. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the calculating of said total stop amount includes computing ~~a stop amount~~ said primary quantity and a slippage amount.

3. (Original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the calculating of said slippage

amount includes automatically multiplying a default slip per unit of said commodity times the identified number of units of said commodity in said trading offer.

4. (Original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising automatically allocating or reserving said total stop amount from the available amount in said client or trader account.

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5. (Original) The method defined in claim 4, further comprising canceling at least a portion of said trading offer and automatically returning at least a portion of the allocated or reserved amount to said client or trader account upon such cancellation.

6. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein said digital signal is transmitted upon and only upon a determination that said total stop amount is less than the available amount in said client or trader account.

7. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the generating of said trading offer and the comparing of said total stop amount with the available amount in said client or trader account are performed by a client or trader computer connected to said computer network.

8. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the transmitting of said digital signal includes directing said digital signal to a server computer connected to said computer network, said server computer distributing said trading offer to said traders.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein said trading offer additionally includes identification of said stop value as a stop amount per unit of said commodity, ~~the calculating of said total stop amount includes automatically multiplying said stop amount per unit of said commodity times the identified number of units of said commodity in~~ said trading offer.

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11. (Original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a stop value; and
determining that a respective stop value has been selected for said trading offer,
forwarding, via said computer network, said respective stop value to a server computer together with said trading offer.

12. (Original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value; and
determining that a respective limit value has been selected for said trading offer,
forwarding, via said computer network, said respective limit value to a server computer together with said trading offer.

13. (Original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a time period for which said trading offer remains valid and capable of being accepted;

determining that a respective time period has been selected for said trading offer;
determining when said time period is terminated; and
canceling said trading offer upon termination of said time period.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for trading currencies, comprising:
receiving, via a computer network, digital signals together encoding a plurality of bids
and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common currency;
displaying said bids in a first monotonic sequence on a computer monitor;
simultaneously displaying said offers in a second monotonic sequence on said computer
monitor;
monitoring a computer input device; and
upon detecting a signal from said input device of a predetermined type encoding a trading
order for requesting a transaction on one of said bids and said offers, automatically calculating a
total currency amount for carrying out said order and comparing said total currency amount with
a capital amount available in a given account to determine if said capital amount is sufficient;
and
upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital is available in said account,
transmitting an order signal over said computer network to a server computer, said order signal
encoding a said trading order for requesting a transaction on said one of said bids and said offers.

17. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 16, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a plurality of prompts for particulars of a trading offer, said prompts including prompts to enter a price per unit of said currency and a total number of units of said currency ;
determining entry via said input device of a trading offer including at least a price per currency unit and a total number of currency units; and
forwarding said trading offer over said computer network to multiple other traders on said computer network.

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18. (Original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a stop value; and
determining that said trading offer includes a respective stop value,
the forwarding said trading offer including transmission of said respective stop value to said server computer.

19. (Original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value; and
determining that said trading offer includes a respective limit value,
the forwarding said trading offer including transmission of said respective limit value to said server computer.

20. (Original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a time period for which said trading offer remains valid and capable of being accepted;

determining that said trading offer includes a respective time period;

determining when said time period is terminated; and

canceling said trading offer upon termination of said time period.

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21. (Original) The method defined in claim 16 wherein said computer network is a global computer network, further comprising downloading from said computer network a program enabling and controlling the displaying of said bids and said offers on said computer monitor in response to said digital signals.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for use in trading currencies, comprising:

displaying, on a computer monitor connected to a computer in turn connected to a computer network, a plurality of prompts for particulars of a trading offer, said prompts including prompt to enter a price per unit of a currency and a total number of units of said currency;

determining entry, via ~~said~~ an input device of said computer, of a trading offer including at least a price per currency unit and a total number of currency units; and

automatically determining whether sufficient capital exists in a given account of a trader utilizing said computer, to cover a trade executable on said trading offer for said total number of currency units; and

upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital exists in said given account,
forwarding said trading offer ~~to a server computer~~ over said computer network ~~for relay~~ to other
traders on said computer network.

23. (Original) The method defined in claim 22, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a stop value; and
determining that said trading offer includes a respective stop value,
the forwarding said trading offer including transmission of said respective stop value to
said server computer.

24. (Original) The method defined in claim 22, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value; and
determining that said trading offer includes a respective limit value,
the forwarding said trading offer including transmission of said respective limit value to
said server computer.

25. (Original) The method defined in claim 22, further comprising:
displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a time period for which said trading offer
remains valid and capable of being accepted;
determining that said trading offer includes a respective time period;
determining when said time period is terminated; and
canceling said trading offer upon termination of said time period.

{ 26-54. (Previously Canceled) }

55. (Previously Amended) A currency trading method comprising:

receiving at a server computer a first digital signal over a computer network from a client's computer, said first digital signal encoding a trading offer including identification of a currency, a trading rate or price per unit of said currency, and a number of units of said currency;

operating said server computer to maintain (i) a first queue of bids ordered by price per currency unit and times of extending of the respective bids and (ii) a second queue of offers to sell ordered by price per currency unit and times of extending of the respective offers to sell;

operating said server computer to determine whether said trading offer matches any entry in said first queue and said second queue; and

upon detection by said server computer of a match between said trading offer and a particular entry in said one of said first queue and said second queue, operating said server computer to (a) modify accounts of traders who made said trading offer and said particular entry, (b) remove said particular entry from said one of said first queue and said second queue, (c) transmit signals over said computer network to advise all logged-in traders of the match, and (d) sending specific confirmation to the traders who made said trading offer and said particular entry.

56. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 55, wherein said trading offer is placed in a respective one of said first queue and said second queue upon receiving of said trading offer at said server computer, the operating of said server computer to determine whether said trading offer matches any entry in said first queue and said second queue including

comparing said bids to said offers to sell to determine whether a match has occurred, said server being operated, upon detection by said server computer of the match between said trading offer and said particular entry, to remove said trading offer and said particular entry from respective ones of said first queue and said second queue.

57. (Original) The method defined in claim 55, further comprising operating said server computer to:

log in traders as log-in requests arrive;
supervise the establishment of multiple private chat forums; and
distribute messages among logged-in traders according to established chat forums.

58. (Currently Amended) A method for use in trading a commodity, comprising:
generating a trading offer;
automatically calculating a total stop amount for said trading offer, said total stop amount being a monetary amount required to cover a stop execution on said trading offer, said total stop amount including a primary quantity equal to a stop value multiplied by an identified number of units of the commodity included in said trading offer;

automatically comparing said total stop amount with an available amount in a client or trader account to determine whether said total stop amount and said available amount meet pre-established criteria; and

acting on said trading offer only upon determining that said total stop amount and said available amount meet said pre-established criteria.

59. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 58 wherein the calculating of said total stop amount includes computing ~~a stop amount~~ said primary quantity and a slippage amount.

60. (Original) The method defined in claim 59 wherein the calculating of said slippage amount includes automatically multiplying a default slip per unit of said commodity times the identified number of units of said commodity in said trading offer.

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61. (Original) The method defined in claim 58, further comprising automatically allocating or reserving said total stop amount from said available amount.

62. (Original) The method defined in claim 61, further comprising canceling at least a portion of said trading offer and automatically returning at least a portion of the allocated or reserved amount to said client or trader account upon such cancellation.

63. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 58 wherein the acting on said trading offer includes transmitting a digital signal encoding said trading offer over said computer network for distribution to multiple traders.

64. (Original) The method defined in claim 63 wherein said digital signal is transmitted upon and only upon a determination that said total stop amount is less than an available amount in said client or trader account.

65. (Original) The method defined in claim 58 wherein the generating of said trading offer and the comparing of said total stop amount said digital signal are performed by a client or trader computer connected to said network.

66. (Original) The method defined in claim 58 wherein the transmitting of said digital signal includes directing said digital signal to a server computer connected to said computer network, said server computer distributing said trading offer to said traders.

{ 67-73. (Previously Canceled) }
